

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§51.1906

GRADES

§ 51.1901 U.S. Grade A.

U.S. Grade A shall consist of tomatoes of similar varietal characteristics which are mature and are at least turning (see §51.1904), but are not overripe or soft which are well developed, at least fairly well formed, fairly smooth, free from soft rot, freezing injury, and from damage caused by dirt, bruises, cuts, shriveling, sunscald, sunburn, puffiness, catfaces, growth cracks, scars, dry rot, other diseases, insects, hail, or mechanical or other means. Tomatoes on the shown face shall be reasonably representative in size and quality of the contents of the container. (See §51.1903.)

(a) Incident to proper grading and handling, except for maturity, not more than 5 percent, by count, of the tomatoes in any lot may fail to meet the requirements of the grade, including not more than 1 percent for tomatoes which are affected by soft rot.

§ 51.1902 U.S. Grade B.

U.S. Grade B shall consist of tomatoes of similar varietal characteristics which are mature and are at least turning (see §51.1904), but are not overripe or soft and not badly misshapen; which are free from soft rot, freezing injury and from serious damage caused by dirt, bruises, cuts, shriveling, sunscald, sunburn, puffiness, catfaces, growth cracks, scars, dry rot, other diseases, insects hail, or mechanical or other means Tomatoes on the shown face shall be reasonably representative in size and quality of the contents of the container. (See §51.1903.)

(a) Incident to proper grading and handling, except for maturity, not more than 5 percent, by count, of the tomatoes in any lot may fail to meet the requirements of the grade, including not more than 1 percent for tomatoes which are affected by soft rot.

SIZE AND MATURITY CLASSIFICATION

§ 51.1903 Size classification.

The following terms may be used for describing the size of the tomatoes in any lot:

Small

Under 3 oz 3 to 6 oz., inc.

Medium

Large

Over 6 to 10 oz., inc Over 10 oz.

Very Large

(a) The tomatoes may also be classed in terms of combinations of the above sizes, as "Small to Medium," "Medium to Large," "Small to Very Large," etc., in accordance with the facts.

(b) Incident to proper sizing, not more than 10 percent, by count, of the tomatoes in any lot may vary from the size specified.

§ 51.1904 Maturity classification.

Tomatoes which are characteristically red when ripe, but are not overripe or soft, may be classified for maturity as follows:

(a) Turning, when at least some part of the surface of the tomato, but less than one-half of the surface in the aggregate, is covered with pink color.

(b) Pink, when the tomato shows from one-half to three-fourths of the surface in the aggregate covered with pink or red color.

(c) Hard ripe, when the tomato shows three-fourths or more of the surface in the aggregate covered with pink or red color.

(d) Firm ripe, when the tomato shows three-fourths or more of the surface in the aggregate covered with red color characteristic of reasonably well ripened tomatoes.

(e) Incident to proper maturity determination, not more than a total of 10 percent, by count, of the tomatoes in any lot may fail to meet the maturity specified: *Provided*, That not more than 5 percent shall be allowed for tomatoes which are immature or are overripe or soft.

OFF-GRADE

§ 51.1905 Off-Grade tomatoes.

Tomatoes which fail to meet the requirements of either of the foregoing grades shall be Off-Grade tomatoes.

DEFINITIONS

§ 51.1906 Similar varietal characteristics.

Similar varietal characteristics means that the tomatoes are alike as to color,